



By the King.

A Proclamation for the establishing of the Peace and Quiet of the Church of England.



He Kings most Excellent Maieſty, in His moſt religious care, and princely conſideration, of the Peace of this Church & Common wealth of England, and other his Dominions, whereof God of his goodnes hath, vnder his Sonne Chriſt Ieſus, made him the ſupreame Governour, obſerning, that in all ages great diſturbances, both to Church and State, haue enſued out of ſmall beginnings, when the ſeedes of Contention were not timely prevented; and finding, that of late ſome Queſtions and Opinions ſeeme to haue been broched or raiſed in matters of Doctrine, and the Tenents of our Religion, which at firſt onely being meant againſt the Papists, but afterwards by the ſharpe and indiſcreete handling and maintaining of ſome of either parts, haue giuen much offence to the ſober and well grounded Readers, and Hearers of theſe late written Bookes on both ſides, which may iuſtly be feared, will raiſe ſome hopes in the profeſſed enemies of our Religion, the Romiſh Catholikes, that by degrees, the profeſſours of our Religion may bee drawen firſt to Schiſme, and after to plaine Popery.

His Maieſtie therefore, in the integrity of his owne heart, and ſingular prouidence of the peaceable gouernment of that people, which God hath committed to his charge, hath thought fit, by the aduice of his reuerend Biſhops, to declare and publiſh, not onely to his owne people, but alſo to the whole world, his bitter diſlike to all thoſe, who to ſhew the ſubtilty of their wits, or to pleaſe their owne humours, or bent their owne paſſions, doe, or ſhall aduenture to ſtirre or moue any new Opinions, not only contrary, but differing from the ſound and Orthodoxall grounds of the true Religion, ſincerely profeſſed, and happily eſtabliſhed in the Church of England; And alſo to declare his full and conſtant reſolution, that neither in matter of Doctrine, or Diſcipline of the Church, nor in the gouernment of the State, he will admit of the leaſt innouation, but by Gods aſſiſtance will ſo guide the Scepter of theſe his Kingdomes and Dominions, by the Diuine prouidence put into his hand, as ſhall be for the comfort and aſſurance of his ſober, religious, and well affected Subjects, and for the reſpreſſing and ſeuere puniſhing of the inſolencies of ſuch, as out of any ſiniſter reſpects, or diſaffection to his Perſon or Gouernment, ſhall dare either in Church or State, to diſturbe or diſquiet the peace thereof.

And therefore his most excellent Maestie, doth hereby admonish, and also straitly charge and command all his subjects of this Realme, and of his Realme of Ireland, of whatsoever degree, qualitie, or condition they be of, especially those who are Church-men, and by their Profession and places, ought to be Lights and Guides to others, that from hencefoorth they carry themselves so wisely, warily, and conscionably, that neither by writing, preaching, printing, Conferences, or otherwise, they raise any doubts, or publish, or maintaine any new inventions, or opinions concerning Religion, then such as are clearly grounded, and warranted by the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England, heretofore published, and happily established by authority. And if any person, of what degree soever, shall at any time hereafter, adventure to breake this Rule of sobrietie, and due obedience to his Maestie, and his Lawes, and to this religious duetie to the Church of God; his Maestie doth hereby straitly charge, and command all his reverend Archbishops and Bishops in their severall Diocesses, speedily to reclaim and repress all such spirits, as shall in the least degree attempt to violate this bond of peace. And his Maestie doth also charge and command all his Counsellors of State, Judges, Justices and ministers of Justice whatsoever, that they in their severall places take especiall care, to observe and execute his Maesties pious and Royall pleasure herein expressed.

And lastly, his Maestie doth hereby give assurance to all whom it may concerne, that such as shall take the boldnesse wilfully to neglect this his Maesties gracious admonition, and for the satisfying of their unquiet and restless spirits, or to expresse their rash or brutish insolencies, shall wilfully breake that circle of Order, which without apparant danger to Church and State, may not bee broken; That his Maestie shall and will proceed against all such offenders, and wilfull contemners of his gracious and Religious government, with that severity, as upon due consideration had of the qualitie of their offences and contempts they shall deserve, that so by the exemplary punishment of some few, who by lenitie and mercy cannot be wonne, all others may be warned, and take heed, how they fall into the just indignation of their Soueraigne; and that all his Maesties good and loving subjects, who are studious of the peace and prosperitie of this Church and Common wealth, may blesse God, for his Maesties pious, religious, wise, just, and gracious government.

Given at Our Palace of White-Hall, the 14. of Iune, in the second yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill, Printers
to the Kings most Excellent Maestie.
M.DC.XXVI.